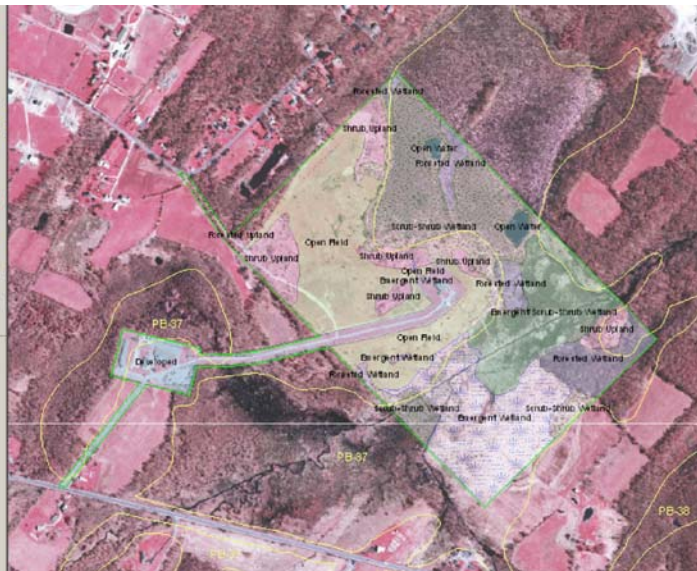
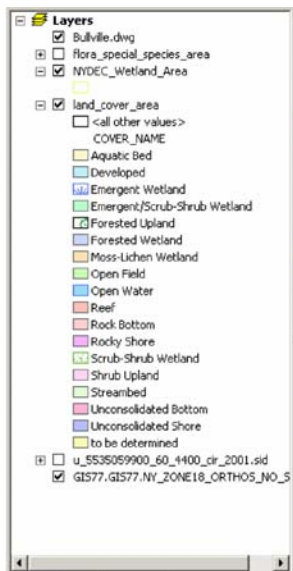


PReserver

News for the U.S. Army Reserve Environmental Community

First Qtr. 2005



This screenshot of ArcInfo was developed by the 77th ARIM Environmental Division using basic natural resource data provided by the contractor as part of a planning level survey for threatened, endangered and invasive species as well as wetland delineation. This data was incorporated into the 77th ARIM's GIS to provide a clear picture of the significant natural resources at the site that would support future management and development decisions.

The 77th RRC's GIS Captures Its Command

Article by **Ms. Ingrid Weigand** and **Mr. Ravi Ajodah, 77th RRC**



The PReserver Newsletter is a functional bulletin authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1 for members of the United States Army Reserve Command (USARC). It is published quarterly by the USAR Environmental Division to provide the Total USAR Environmental Community with information on people, policies, operations, technical developments, trends and ideas of and about the Environmental Division of the U.S. Army Reserve. This publication has a circulation of 500 printed copies and several internet access points.

Manuscripts of interest to U.S. Army personnel are invited. Direct communication is authorized to:

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In October 2004, the 77th RRC Army Reserve Installation Management (ARIM) office set out to increase its efficiency in managing its facilities and environmental issues by upgrading its Geographic Information System (GIS) capabilities. Under the oversight of Ravi Ajodah with 77th RRC ARIM, Environmental Division, the project that would ultimately upgrade the GIS was not without lofty goals and interesting challenges. The GIS upgrade sought to be compliant with the requirements of Executive Order 12906 and the ACSIM Interim Guidance of 2001 and meet the requirements of the Spatial Data Standard for Facilities, Infrastructure and the Environment (SDSFIE). In addition, the project would create a GIS that was economical, user-friendly and would be accessible by the broadest possible user population while meeting network security requirements.

Taking all GIS project goals into consideration, the solution was surprisingly simple. The 77th RRC ARIM implemented an enterprise GIS configuration using ESRI's commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) GIS software suite (ArcGIS) and saw the creation of a central 77th RRC GIS data repository (geodatabase). The 77th RRC

GIS would be accessed by users through either the ArcInfo or ArcView desktop software or the 77th RRC GIS website available to all those who access the ARNet. The use of the website not only disseminates information to the entire Army Reserve, but also creates a more intuitive GIS interface that does not require any additional software installation.

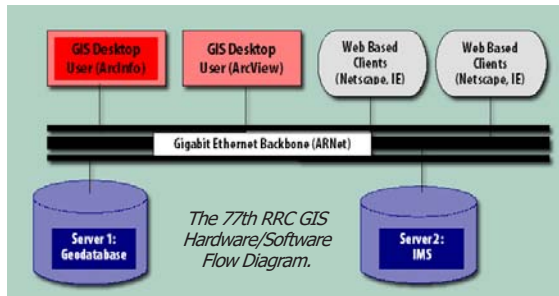
In addition to the software and hardware, the project included obtaining all critical data that would populate the geodatabase while still allowing for a great deal of space for future expansion. The data was obtained mainly from a multitude of sources that included data sharing agreements between the 77th RRC, New York State local government agencies and the State GIS Clearinghouse enabling the 77th RRC to continue to acquire GIS data and updates more easily in the future. Initial critical data included base maps, wetland inventories, aerial images, CAD drawings, scanned facility site plans and a host of other data. In addition, the geodatabase will serve as the central repository for all the 77th RRC's environmental records, including an electronic documents/reports library, inspection

77th GIS continues on page 2

77th RRC GIS *Continued from page 1*

records, hazardous and non-hazardous material inventories, laboratory sample results (i.e., asbestos, radon, lead, etc.), fuel oil tank information, trip reports, etc. Using the geodatabase in this manner allows the new hardware and software to support a multitude of ARIM program areas beyond GIS including plans, budget and operations division functions while fully integrating into new environmental initiatives such as Environmental Management System (EMS)/ISO14001 implementation.

Despite being implemented only a few months ago, the 77th RRC ARIM has already seen great benefits from the new enterprise GIS. Though the incorporation of wet-



land, endangered species, invasive species and land use data from various planning level surveys, the 77th RRC ARIM has been able to determine that units can

use roughly 75 acres of previously unusable land for training while effectively managing significant natural resources. The GIS has also allowed for a more streamlined approach to disseminat-

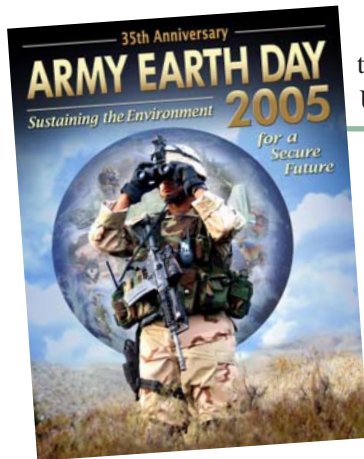
ing all types of installation management information to all USAR interest parties include facility personnel, IMA AR, ACSIM and other 77th RRC staff sections. Despite these benefits, the greatest impact has been the economic benefits of the GIS. By having acquired critical GIS data needs through the implementation, background data and maps needed for surveys and reports was already on hand and easily accessible. As such, Mr. Ajodah was able to minimize the effort necessary to complete a variety of studies that utilized facility information significantly lowering costs as the contractor was able to eliminate the data gathering process and did not have to create a Geodatabase for data input. By utilizing scanned site plans mapped by their coordinates, the 77th RRC ARIM was able to attain a real property survey with survey level accuracy for a fraction of the Corps of Engineers quote. The resulting savings for FY03 and FY04 has been calculated at roughly \$180,000. At a total initial cost of about \$32k for hardware and software and about \$100k for new GIS data, the GIS upgrade 77th RRC ARIM has already benefited from a 100% capital investment return ...

and there will be more savings to come.



You can visit the 77th RRC GIS homepage from the following link: <https://zny023c288d8m41/army77/default.aspx>

35th Anniversary of Earth Day coming 22 April!



This year's Earth Day theme is "Sustaining the Environment for a Secure Future" - in coordination with the Army's new strategy for the Environment. Several great Earth Day resources are available through the U.S. Army Reserve and the U.S. Army Environmental Center (USAEC):

Fact Sheets: Information sheets (provided by the members of the Public Relations and Awards Subcommittee) will be available at the Environmental Workshop in late March or by contacting Michelle Brown with the 99th RRC (michelle.brown5@us.army.mil). Topics include: How to Organize a Green Golf Tournament, How to Organize an Earth Day Fun Run, How to Adopt-a-Street, How to Make Your

Own Bird Feeder, and Smart Landscaping 101.

Earth Day Items: Pens/Pencils, Coffee Mugs, Seed Packs, Coloring Books/Crayons, Cloth Bags, Post-it Notes. Contact Michelle Brown to order Earth Day items for your celebration.

USAEC: The USAEC website offers the poster (shown at left- 18" by 24" size) at no cost to military installations and organizations. It is also available for download, along with the Earth Day message, guide, resources and links at the USAEC website: <http://aec.army.mil/usaec/publicaffairs/earthday00.html>.

Award Opportunities

27th Annual Secretary of the Army Energy and Water Management Awards

Paper and Electronic submittals through IMA-AR by **15 March 2005**. Information available at: http://hqda-energypolicy.pnl.gov/awards/sec_army.asp

National Trust for Historic Preservation Award

Due 1 May 2005. More information: www.nthp.org/preservation_awards

2005 Department of Energy Federal Energy and Water Management Award

Paper and Electronic submittals through IMA-AR by **31 March 2005**. Information available at: www.eere.energy.gov/femp/services/awards_fewm.cfm



Natural Resources Summit helps increase program awareness at Fort McCoy

Article by **Fort McCoy Triad**

A Terra Torch is used to burn vegetation off Range 7 to prepare it for dud (unexploded ordnance) removal. (Photo by Jim Kerkman)

A Natural Resources Summit held at Fort McCoy helped increase program awareness to show how the installation is working to manage natural and cultural resources and how it has ensured the installation meets state and federal environmental regulations, said Mark McCarty.

McCarty, an environmental protection specialist and the team liaison for the installation's Biological and Cultural Resources Team (BCRT) for the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, said the meeting also provided an update on the installation's natural resource and compliance programs to the Command Group. Installation Commander Col. Danny G. Nobles' command philosophy emphasizes three pillars — environmental stewardship, being a good neighbor, and underpinning readiness of America's armed forces. McCarty said embracing these philosophies helps the BCRT accomplish its programs. Representatives from other installation directorates also attended to learn about the BCRT program.

"We discussed the importance of the NEPA process (National Environmental Policy Act of 1969) within the BCRT and how it links all programs together," McCarty said. "NEPA calls for the systematic review of environmental consequences of a proposed Army action. By integrating NEPA at the earliest possible time in a project, (BCRT) ensures Army/Department of Defense environmental polices are implemented and delays in mission accomplishment are minimized."

Each of the BCRT personnel had about 30 minutes to present information about their programs and to answer questions, he said. Program managers of fisheries, wildlife management, invasive species, cultural resources, and forestry, among others, spoke about their programs.

"Our programs determine impacts or effects on projects or activities that impact our wetlands, surface water and other areas," McCarty said. "The purpose of the summit was to show how we can all work together to accomplish the mission."

John Noble, installation fisheries biologist, said some of the assets under his program, such as streams, for example, go beyond the installation's boundaries. This means Fort McCoy projects or management could affect these resources in the surrounding communities. The installation also works closely with local, state, and federal governments to successfully manage water resources in this area.

"We look at the importance of controlling erosion and sedi-

mentation," Noble said. "The wise management of our resources helps sustain training and ensures we are not creating impediments to the lakes and streams." This should translate into better water resources downstream.

Jim Kerkman, installation forester, said the management of the installation's lands is done with an eye toward the types of training conditions the installation needs now and may need several years in the future.



Members of local Boys and Girls Clubs ask Fort McCoy Endangered Species Biologist Tim Wilder about turtles. (Photo by Erik Blomberg)

About 20 years ago, troops coming to Fort McCoy often would return to the same two or three areas to hold their training. Kerkman said this would lead to the land becoming degraded.

Kim Mello, Fort McCoy wildlife biologist, said the summit gave him a chance to explain the in-depth process of managing the wildlife program and controlling invasive plant species.

"A big part of natural resources management is people management," Mello said. "We're doing outreach, working with volunteers and forming partnerships with people (to accomplish our goals). We're constantly informing and educating people and answering questions."

Members of the BCRT frequently give presentations of their programs to civic groups, students or other interested personnel, said Tim Wilder, the installation's endangered species biologist. Wilder said the post shares its expertise with the surrounding communities to help ensure proper management of natural resources.



Good Recycling News:

Every ton of recycled paper saves: 7000 gallons of water, 17 trees, 4100 kilowatts of electricity, and 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space.

While recycling has grown in general, recycling of specific materials has grown even more drastically: 42 percent of all paper, 40 percent of all plastic soft drink bottles, 55 percent of all aluminum beer and soft drink cans, 57 percent of all steel packaging, and 52 percent of all major appliances are now recycled.

Source: USEPA



Maryland honors 99th RRC Recycling Program

Article and Photo by **John Pontier, 99th RRC**

(Photo left to right) SFC Jose Vazquez - Maintenance NCO, Mr. John Bailey - Unit Administrator, and SFC Barbara Lucas, Training NCO of the 1007th Maintenance Company (99th RRC) display the Certificate of Excellence from the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority for implementation of an outstanding Recycling Program.

Pest Management Program Update

Article by **Mr. Mel Marks - USAR**

There are several changes on the horizon for the IMA-AR Pest Management Program. During the past year we have continued to track and facilitate the evaluation and up-dating of Integrated Pest Management Plans, the review and approval of pest control and grounds maintenance contracts, the implementation of Self-Help Pest Control programs, and the improved recording and reporting of pest management operations.

Regarding record keeping and reporting requirements, there is a growing acceptance and use of a recently developed Excel *Pest Management Spreadsheet* used for the electronic recording and reporting of pest management operations. This spreadsheet is programmed to automatically calculate and keep a running total of the amount of pesticides applied, measured in pounds of active ingredient (a.i.). This has served as a valuable tool when compiling the end-of-the-year EQR submittal on the total pounds of pesticide applied for the year.

There has also been a great interest in a simplified report form to replace the previously used DD Form 1532-1. An *IMA-AR Pest Management Record Form* is now available to use for the reporting of individual pest management operation. The form would be used by anyone (whether in-house or contract) who applies pesticides. It has always been difficult to track contracted pest control work. This is particularly true for the RRCs. The availability of the *IMA-AR Pest Management Record Form* provides a standardized means of reporting that could assist in the enforcement of contract reporting requirements. Making the submittal of this report a requirement of the invoicing process would solve a long stand-

ing problem of enforcement in that it would be understood that the contractor would not be paid until the required form was completed and turned in.

We are working on ways of scaling down Integrated Pest Management Plans to make them more user friendly. One way of doing this is by eliminating many of the hard copy appendices. The current approach is to replace the hard copy appendices with linked web addresses that prove the desired information with the added advantage of the cited documents being continually up-dated by the web site.

Taking the U.S. Army Environmental Center (USAEC) lead, we would also like to develop a simplified process for the annual reviews and technical validation of pest management plans. Under current USAEC procedures, unless a plan requires a major revision, all that is required is the submittal of two "fill-in" electronically formatted forms. After reviewing the electronic submissions, the USAEC staff then sends an electronic memorandum validating the currency of the plan. We intend on developing a similar "paperless" review process that would meet the needs of the Army Reserve. The goal is to have a "paperless" review process in place for distribution to the RRCs sometime this summer. We envision using a single "fill in" form to be completed and submission by the end of FY05.

Should you have any questions concerning the needs or overall status of your pest management programs, please contact Mel Marks by phone at (843) 824-2633 or by e-mail at mpmarks@comcast.net.

We are working on ways of scaling down Integrated Pest Management Plans to make them more user friendly.



The PReserver is printed on Recycled Paper (30% Post-Consumer Waste Fibers)